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*A CONCISE ANGLO-SAXON DICTIONARY FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS.* By John R. Clark Hall, M.A., Ph.D. Second edition, revised and enlarged. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1916. xii+372pp.

When the first edition of Clark Hall's Dictionary appeared (in 1894), Sweet, in his well-remembered incisive way, characterized it as "a work of great industry . . . containing a good deal of new and valuable matter, but . . . terribly uncritical. . . ." In the preface to the new edition the author remarks that his former principle of arranging all words according to their actual spelling—no doubt one of the chief defects aimed at by Sweet—"was admittedly an unscientific one, and opened the door to a good many errors and inconsistencies." This weakness has, then, to a considerable extent, been removed. Besides, commendable care has been taken to bring the book up-to-date by utilizing modern contributions to lexicography, notably those of Napier and Toller, to improve it throughout in accuracy, and to make it more serviceable to the student. Its outward make-up is almost an ideal one. Well printed, tastefully bound, of convenient size and remarkably light weight, it is one of those books which the student will enjoy having on his table or even carrying around with him, if he should feel so inclined.

In contradistinction to the practice of Sweet, who separates, e.g., the *an-* from the *ān-* compounds, the order of words is, as it should be, strictly alphabetical, no concession having been made to etymological considerations. There are many more words here than in Sweet's Dictionary, and, obviously, a great many more entries. No doubt the desire to make the book easy for undergraduates to use is responsible for the special listing of numberless grammatical forms necessitating cross references, e.g., *faca* gen. plur. of *fæc*, *facum* dat. plur. of *fæc*, *ēcere* gen. sing. fem. of *ēce*, *lengra* compar. of *lang*, *wrāt* pret. of *writan*. But would not the student really be served much better by having brought home to him the necessity of mastering the elements of grammar at the very beginning of his Old English studies? Again, it is difficult to see why dat. plur. forms used in an adverbial sense, such as *ēstum*, *ēaðmēdum*, *snyltrum*, should be treated as independent words instead of being mentioned under the normal forms of the nom. sing. Furthermore, the number of variant forms and spellings cited as head-words is still so large as to be annoying and, indeed, bewildering. Of course, rare words, especially ἀπαξ λεγόμενα, may very well be given in the spelling actually recorded, but ordinarily in a comprehensive dictionary, as distinguished from a special glossary, a rigorous system of normalization is preferable to compromise measures. Nothing is gained in helpfulness by citing separately forms like *strængð* (*Vesp. Psalter*), *ðērrihite*, *hunger*,

*hungur* (by the side of *hungor*), or by separating the *burg-* from the *burh-* compounds, the *nearu-* from the *nearo-* compounds.

A very valuable feature is the characterization of words by means of references to texts in which they occur. Although, in a concise dictionary like this one, completeness in this respect cannot be thought of, the author has succeeded in thus providing a vast amount of exceedingly useful information, especially as regards prose words. In the case of words recorded only once, the source is frequently indicated. The numerous words confined to poetical texts are marked by a dagger; those among them which occur only once are marked by a double dagger or are followed by a reference to the passage. Perhaps an additional improvement could have been effected by distinguishing from the ordinary 'poetical words' those which are met with in one poetical text only, though in more than one passage, e.g., *ecgbana*, *eftsið*, *heals-bēag*, *healsittende*, *healðegn*, *heardhigende*, *heaðudeor*, *hildebill*, *hildebord*, *lēoðbealu*, *leoðusyrce*, *lifgesceaft*, *lifwraðu*, and many more which are not found outside of *Beowulf*. To all intents and purposes such words are on a level with the hapax vocables.

An innovation deserving especial praise and one which renders unnecessary many etymological data is the insertion of references to the corresponding items in the *New English Dictionary*. It is safe to say that the students who consistently follow up those hints will be amply rewarded for the little extra trouble. To many of them that magnificent treasury of English words will be a perfect revelation.

Complete freedom from error has not yet been achieved in this revised edition. I beg to mention a few miscellaneous oversights which have been noticed. *byrgan* 'taste' is by no means unknown in prose, see Toller's Supplement, s.v. *birgan*.—The ghost word *dēagan*, which was formerly inferred from *Beowulf* 850, has been eliminated; yet the pret. form *dēog* still remains, though unexplained.—*behwylfan* is not only found in *Exodus* 426, but several times in prose, cf. Förster in Morsbach's *Studien zur englischen Philologie*, no. L, p. 150.—*dysig-cræftig* with its very interesting meaning might have been included, cf. Förster, *l.c.*, p. 152.—Under *ealdorlēas* the reference to *Beowulf* 15 should be transferred to the second adjective, meaning 'without a chief.'—*endedæg* occurs also in prose, see Toller's Supplement; the same is true of *eodor* (*edor*), see Bosworth-Toller, s.v. *edor*.—The misprint *eorsnanstān* (under *earcnanstān*) is easily corrected.—*forswerian*, *Beow.* 804 does not mean 'renounce on oath,' but 'swear away,' i.e. 'make useless by a spell.'—*forwyrht* 'misdeed' quoted from Förster, p. 160 carries the sense of 'destruction' in the 2. Vercelli Homily, *ib.*, p. 90, l. 4 (variant: *forwyrð*).—*forwyrðan* with the sense of 'perish' has been erroneously inferred from the prose legend of St. Andrew, Bright's *Anglo Saxon Reader* 124. 24: *forwyrð* (from *forweorðan*).—

*forweorþnes* cannot be credited with the meaning of 'migration,' since it occurs only as an inaccurate gloss, beside *ymbcerr* and *oferfær*, of *transmigratio*, *Lind. Mat.* 1.17; Toller's rendering 'ejection,' 'expulsion' should be adopted.—The sense of 'lead' attributed to *fēðan* is to be canceled, see Toller's instructive statement.—For *geōmor* read *geōmor*.—For *gamenwāðu* read *gamenwāð*.—*mægenhrēð* might have been added. (*Beow.* 455.)—Under *næfebor* read *nafugār*.—*nēara* is not the best form of the comparative of *nēah*.—Instead of *hrōftigel* read *hrōftigel*.—*metan wið* 'pass over,' 'traverse'? *wið* should have been inserted before the meaning 'compare.'—*gescola* 'one of the same troop,' 'a companion' (from *scolu*) might have been added, see Napier, *O. E. Glosses* 2271, note; likewise *gescota*, '*commanipularius*,' '*collega*,' '*miles*,' Wright-Wülcker 15.1, 207.7.—*sēl* cannot be regarded as a *bona fide* positive. The etymological reference to *sāl* is, at any rate, liable to be misunderstood. (The *ē* of *sēl* = *sāl* goes back to older *ō*.)—*spanan* belongs, at least originally, to the sixth class, though the analogical *spēon* is found by the side of *spōn*.—For *tōgeladung* read *tōgeladung*; for *unsēofene*, *unsēofende*.—*weorcwyrðe* denotes 'obliged to do service' rather than 'fit for work.'—The unique *yrfa*, i.e. Kentish *erfa* 'heir' deserves to be included, see Förster, *Altenglisches Lesebuch* 9.10.

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